

Stranded in Time



NEWS photo depicts the majestic Water Tower in San Nicolas which in the past played a very important role in the supplying of water to the community. Its "brother" stands in Oranjestad. Mr. Roland Peterson expressed the feeling of the "forgotten" monument in a beautiful poem titled "Stranded in Time," which we are proud to share with you on Page 3.

Stranded in Time

by Ronald Peterson

During the day, I stand
At night, I loom

Once, I towered
High and mighty,
proud and powerful
For I was needed
I was appreciated
I was seen

War was waged and won
And I stood, firmly

Passersby stopped and languished in my shadow,
Swapping juicy tales of hearsay and gossip
And I stood, unperturbed

But, then as the sun rose and set
As the moon waxed and waned
As the tides ebbed and flowed
Something changed

People no longer looked at me
They looked pass me
I became part of the background
I became...obsolete
Ignored
Discarded
Sold for one florin

One morning, men came and erected a fence around me
A shabby, sloppy fence, with some messy, ugly signs
They said that I was dangerous
They said that I was falling apart

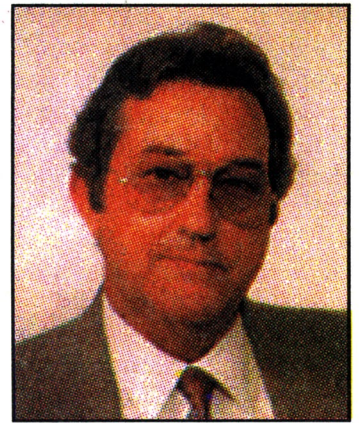
Ah, my heart cries out
But I won't let them sense my sorrow
I may shed some of my plaster
But I will not tremble
I will stand firm

I realize now that when you grow old, and are no longer
needed,
You pass into the netherworld of neglect and dilapidation,
Into the limbo of despair

A photographer came and took my picture
To be placed in a calendar, she said
So now I am immortalized among shabby fences and
misspelled warning signs
Great...

First, you take my dignity
Then you wound my vanity
I have a brother who lives in Oranjestad
I have never met him
But they say we look alike
Lately, I think of him often
There are just two of us on this island, you know
Just two Water Towers, stranded in time

In my dreams, I see him and talk to him
I tell him that he is lofty and majestic
I tell him not to waver
I tell him that he is not alone
I tell him that I, too, am standing firm



Roland Peterson